

VLR-2/28/92 NRHP-8/24/92
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name GODWIN-KNIGHT HOUSEother names/site number (DHR 133-576)

2. Location

street & number 140 King's Highway N/A ☐ not for publicationcity or town Chuckatuck N/A ☐ vicinitystate Virginia code VA county Suffolk (city) code 800 zip code 23432

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ken C. Miller
Signature of certifying official/Title6 July 1992
DateDirector, Virginia Department of Historic ResourcesState of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the
National Register☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National
Register.☐ other. (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
\$ 5	0	build.
0	0	sites
\$ 4	0	struct
0	0	objects
9	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture**Period of Significance**c1856-1930**Significant Dates**18561900**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**Unknown**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

VA Dept. of Historic Resources

Godwin-Knight House
Name of Property

Suffolk, VA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	359360	4080460
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Salmon, Historian/Julie Vosmik, NR and Survey Programs Manager

organization VA Dept. of Historic Resources date January 1992

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Rayve Knight

street & number 140 King's Highway telephone _____

city or town Chuckatuck state VA zip code 23432

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located on King's Highway (Route 125) in the village of Chuckatuck in Suffolk County, the Godwin-Knight House was initially built, like its two neighbors to the south, in the Federal style with a side-hall plan. At the turn of the century it was elaborately remodeled in the Queen Anne style; only the east elevation, with its paired chimneys and original sash make clear its earlier form. The southeast corner tower and the elaborate wraparound porch are the most striking features of the remodeling and noticeably distinguish the house from others in town. Also located on the property is a fine complement of eight ancillary resources that illustrate the self-sufficiency of this property as a small, self-contained domestic complex within the rural village of Chuckatuck.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Godwin-Knight House is sited on a deep, well-maintained lot of roughly one-and-one-half acres in the village of Chuckatuck in Suffolk County. It faces King's Highway, one of the principal roads leading into the center of town, and is flanked on either side by houses similarly sited on their lots. The large well-landscaped lot of the Godwin House is enclosed by an ornamental iron fence to the west and a wooden picket fence to the south and east. A brick walk leads from the gravel drive to the front entrance of the house. Both the house and grounds are in an excellent state of repair.

A rather retard-a-terre example of the Federal style, the Godwin-Knight House was originally constructed as a frame two-and-one-half story, three-bay, double-pile side-hall-plan house about 1856. Because it rests on a raised brick foundation, the house has three full floors of living space. After 1898, it underwent a significant remodeling and was transformed by such characteristically Queen Anne features as a wraparound porch and a corner tower. The remodeling involved only additions and embellishments; therefore, the earlier structure is clearly evident, though the overall character of the building was transformed from the Federal to the Queen Anne style. Windows visible from the street are two-over-two double-hung and date from the time of remodeling. The original six-over-six configuration remains elsewhere.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The house has a slate roof and dentiled cornice. Dominant features of the front facade include the corner tower, porch, and dormer. The latter feature is a prominent centrally-positioned dormer with a balcony projecting from the front slope of the roof. An extension of the dormer gable creates a pediment that is supported by columns, between which is a railing of turned balusters. Two brackets extend from the dentiled cornice of the main structure, directly below the balcony.

At the southeast corner, a round tower with a conical roof with finial projects from the original block. Multi-shaped shingles detail the tower above and below the second floor. A diamond-patterned overlay further embellishes the space between the second floor and the roof. The basement and upper two floors of the tower each has three windows. The one-story shed-roofed porch rests on brick piers and extends from the tower to just around the opposite front corner of the house. It is supported by Doric columns, has a railing of turned balusters, and at an unknown date was enclosed by screening.

The entrance is accessed through a small foyer that is paved with encaustic tile. The entrance doors are double-leaf wood-paneled with an upper sash of patterned frosted glass. To the right of the entrance, an arched window with blue and rose stained glass opens off of the porch into the parlor.

Projecting from the west elevation is a two-story addition dating from the remodeling that houses the interior staircase. This feature is decorated with stained glass windows and surmounted by a dormer. The first floor window of the original main block was replaced with a two-over-two window, while the second floor window is six-over-six. Prior to the stair addition, this elevation, like its opposite to the east, had four windows on each of the principal floors.

The rear elevation has a full one-story, hip-roofed porch that has been enclosed to accommodate a kitchen and a bath. Though the porch is still supported by piers, the space below has been enclosed for storage. Separate rear doors lead to the kitchen and basement. An exterior brick stove flue is slightly off-center and an oil tank supported by a wooden structure is located to the right of the kitchen entrance at the northwest corner.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

The east side elevation has a fenestration pattern of three windows on the first and second floor and single windows in the basement and attic. Exterior paired, shouldered brick chimneys date from the mid-nineteenth century. The southeast windows were removed at the time of the remodeling to accommodate the addition of the corner tower.

The interior of the Godwin House retains to a significant extent its original floor plan. Pine floors are found throughout and the walls are plaster. There are two fireplaces on each of the floors. At the time of the remodeling the original stair was removed from the side hall and an elaborate wood-paneled stair of two runs separated by a landing was added. The turn-of-the-century stair features heavy square newel posts with turned finials and a railing of turned balusters. For convenient proximity to the kitchen added in the 1940s in the enclosed rear porch, a partition at the north end of the hall was added at the same time to create a small dining room. The original kitchen and dining room are located in the basement.

Following the remodeling the front parlor had wooden pocket doors leading from the hall; these have since been replaced with multi-paned glass doors. A striking and unexpected feature of the interior is the elaborate ornamental plasterwork in the parlor. Likely added after the remodeling, the plasterwork has a pattern of rose garlands and cartouches. Ornamental ceiling paintings have been painted over. The parlor fireplace has a glazed tile surround and a mantel with modified octagonal Ionic columns, a carved frieze of garlands, and a mirrored overmantel.

Behind the parlor is a bedroom that possesses a fireplace similarly detailed to that found in the front parlor. During the remodeling, the house was wired with a bell system to call servants and a speaking tube was installed in this bedroom to the kitchen below. To the rear of this bedroom are the 1940s kitchen and bath located within the enclosed rear porch.

There are three bedrooms-- two large and one small-- on second floor. The full attic is accessed by a continuation of the main stair; this portion is turned and narrower than between the first two floors. The mantels in the two principal bedrooms have simple shelves supported by fluted Ionic columns, have garland ornamentation, and lack an overmantel. The attic consists of two finished rooms separated by a door with a decorative painted finish. The front room possesses a door that leads to the balcony of the front dormer.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4

A continuation of the main stair leads to the basement, which is completely finished and functioned as an important place of congregation. The space is divided into a kitchen, pantry, and large dining room that doubled as a sitting room. The wooden floor was added by Mills Edwin Godwin, Sr. One of two fireplaces is located in the dining/sitting room and is fitted with a coal-burning stove. The second fireplace is located in the kitchen. Of particular interest are the sliding louvered shutters with which the windows in the dining/sitting room are fitted.

There are seven late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings on the property. Directly behind the house is a row of four outbuildings, behind which are two chicken houses and a barn/stable. Those resources in closest proximity to the house include a Delco generator ("light") house with an open shed for storage, a frame summer kitchen, a brick smokehouse, and a garage (original kitchen).

The Delco house is a gable-fronted frame building with a single door on the front elevation. To the west projects a shed-roofed storage structure enclosed on three sides. The summer kitchen is also gable-fronted with a single entrance and has a window in each of the other three elevations. The nineteenth-century smokehouse is gable-fronted with a front entrance. The frame building at the east end of the row was converted from a kitchen to its present use as a garage in 1945. The chicken house to the west is of frame construction and is distinguished by a band of lattice separating the wall from the roof. It has two battened wood doors. The barn/stable structure is of mortised-and-tenoned log construction. The barn is separated from the two chicken houses by two rows of pecan trees. A well is located on the east side of the driveway and southeast of the front of the house.

Contributing Resource Count:

Buildings: Main House
 Summer Kitchen
 Smokehouse

Structures:	Woodshed/Delco House	Gargage (original kitchen)
	Well	Barn/Stable
	Chicken House #1	
	Chicken House #2	

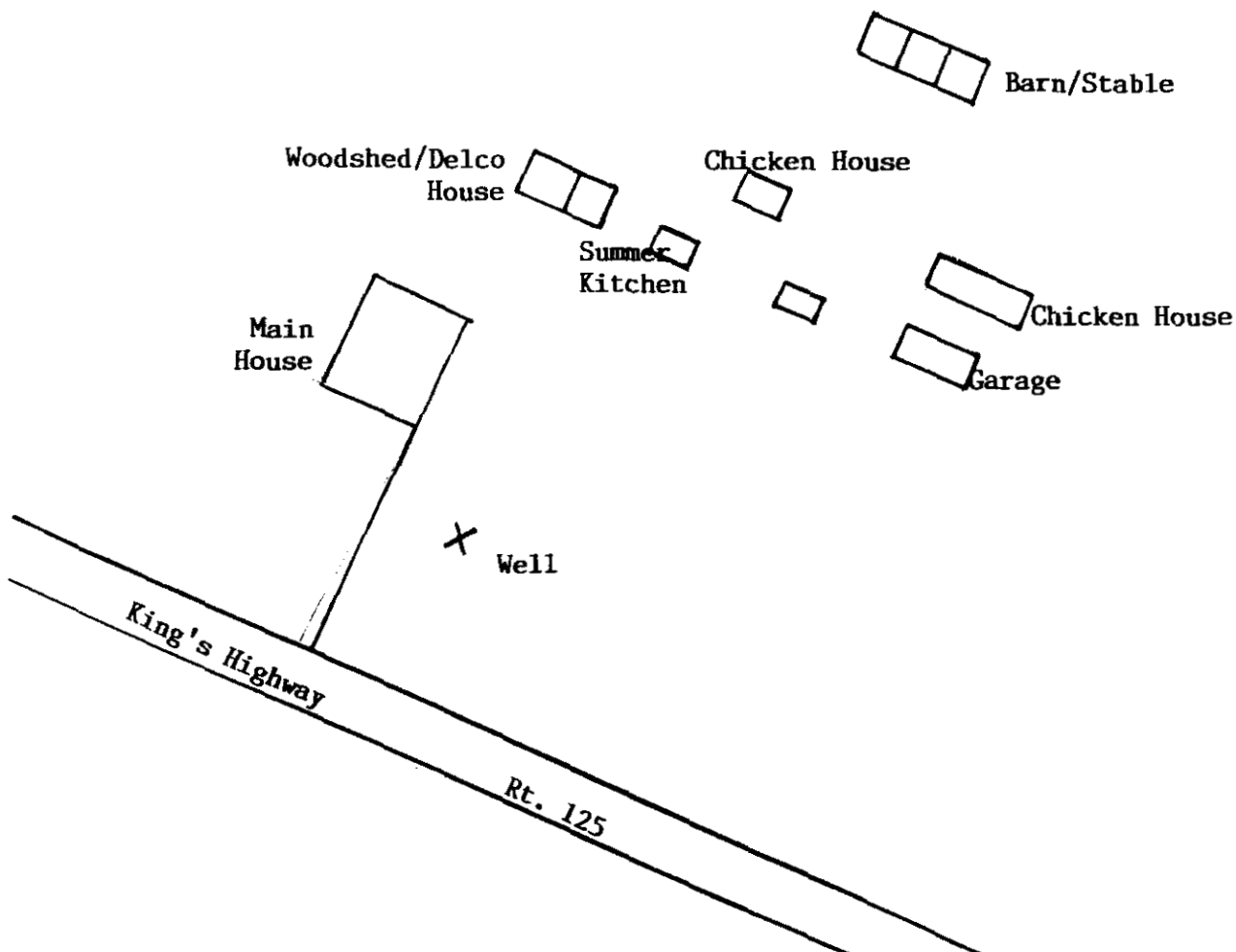
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

SKETCH MAP

GODWIN-KNIGHT HOUSE
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Godwin-Knight House, which is located in the village of Chuckatuck in the city of Suffolk (Nansemond County until 1974), is an unusual example of an antebellum dwelling that was remodeled in the Queen Anne style in the late nineteenth century. Constructed about 1856 for Edward F. Wicks as a two-story, double-pile, three-bay, side-passage-plan, frame dwelling, the house was transformed about 1900 into a Queen Anne residence complete with a tower, wrap-around porch, encaustic tile vestibule, plaster embellishments in the parlor, and excellent examples of the mantels, woodwork, and stairs of the period. Despite the exterior alterations, the original antebellum design still is evident. The Godwin-Knight House stands in contrast to another dwelling nearby that is virtually identical to the earlier structure.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

The Godwin-Knight House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is an unusually fine and locally rare example of an antebellum dwelling that was remodeled in the Queen Anne style in the late nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The tract of land upon which the Godwin-Knight House stands was acquired by the Godwin family at least as early as the late eighteenth century, when Henry Godwin owned 441 acres in the vicinity of Chuckatuck. In 1815 his estate was divided, and H. P. Godwin received 281 acres. He sold the tract to Joseph Godwin in 1825, and he in turn sold it to Jennette Godwin in 1834.¹

Jennette Godwin subdivided her property in 1856, selling off five adjoining lots ranging in size from one acre to an acre and a half. The lots were laid out on the eastern side of Chuckatuck, along present-day Route 125. One of the purchasers was Edward F. Wicks. He bought a one-and-a-half-acre lot and immediately built a two-story, double-pile, three-bay, side-passage-plan, frame dwelling. Over the next two years, the other lot owners built houses that closely resembled his.²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Wicks owned the property until 1861, when he sold it to Henry L. Tynes. Tynes sold the tract in 1867 to Annie Glover; thereafter the property changed hands several times until Lulie E. Pitt acquired it in 1897 from Matthew W. Crumpler. Pitt sold it the next year to Charles B. Godwin, and about 1900 Godwin carried out the Queen Anne-style alterations to the house. Godwin added a tower, wrap-around porch, encaustic tile vestibule, plaster embellishments in the parlor, and mantels, woodwork, and stairs typical of the period.³

Godwin was a successful businessman, boat owner, farmer, and timberman. He owned and operated a boat that carried passengers and freight between Chuckatuck and Norfolk. Godwin lived in the house until he sold it in 1925 to his nephew, Mills Edwin Godwin, Sr. The younger Godwin, who was a farmer and a member of the Nansemond County school board and the board of supervisors, moved his family into the house in the fall of 1927. Among his family were four children, including Mills Edwin Godwin, Jr., and Mildred Elizabeth Godwin. The younger Mills Godwin lived in the house until his marriage to Katherine Thomas Beale in 1940. He later served two terms as governor of Virginia (1966-1970; 1974-1978).⁴

Upon the death of the elder Mills Godwin in 1946, possession of the house passed to his daughters Mildred Godwin Knight and Leah Godwin Keith. Mrs. Knight purchased her sister's share in the property and continues to reside in the house.

John S. Salmon

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

ENDNOTES

1. Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Books, Nansemond County, 1788-1834, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va. (VSL&A).
2. Ibid., 1834-1858. During the 1840s and 1850s the value of the buildings on Jennette Godwin's farm declined, from \$1,100 in 1841 to \$800 by 1851. The value remained at \$800 through 1855. In 1856, after the sale to Wicks and the others, the value of the buildings on Godwin's remaining 183.5 acres stayed at \$800. This suggests that most if not all the buildings on the lots were constructed after the sale in 1856. The value of the buildings on Wicks's 1.5-acre lot was \$2,500 in 1856. Henry L. Tynes purchased a one-acre lot; the value of the buildings was zero in 1856 and \$1,900 in 1857. Dempsey Whitehead bought a 1.33-acre lot; the value of the buildings rose from zero in 1856 to \$150 in 1857 to \$1,700 in 1858. Meritt J. Whitney bought a 1.5-acre lot; the value of his buildings began at \$200 in 1856, remained the same in 1857, and rose to \$1,850 in 1858. George H. Crump bought the fifth lot (one acre) for the Chuckatuck Military Academy.
3. Ibid., 1861-1901. When Charles B. Godwin bought the property in 1898 the buildings had declined in value to \$750. That value did not change until 1901, when it rose to \$2,250.
4. Mills E. Godwin, Jr., A Memorandum of the Ancestors and Descendants of the first Mills Godwin of Isle of Wight County and the Children and Descendants of his son Mills E. Godwin and his wife Mary Louise Pruden (Suffolk, Va.: 1984), 20, 22-23.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Architectural Survey File 133-118. Department of Historic Resources. Richmond, Va.

Auditor of Public Accounts. Land Tax Books. Nansemond County. 1788-1901. Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Va. (VSL&A).

Godwin, Mills E., Jr. A Memorandum of the Ancestors and Descendants of the first Mills Godwin of Isle of Wight County and the Children and Descendants of his son Mills E. Godwin and his wife Mary Louise Pruden. Suffolk, Va.: 1984.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Map parcel number 10-C-13, City of Suffolk, Virginia tax assessor's records.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the main dwelling and outbuildings historically associated with the Godwin property.

5657 1 NW
(SMITHFIELD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH
DIVISION OF MINER

5657 1 NE
(BENNS CHURCH)

76°37'30"
36°52'30"
4082000m N

356000m E

357

358

359

360

Galwin - Knight Hse
DHR 133-576
135936074080460

